

Talking Points for Secure Commonwealth Panel Meeting Wednesday April 22, 2009

Goal

By June 2009 to recommend to the Secure Commonwealth Panel a legislative proposal or other course of action that will incorporate all hazards emergency preparedness education for K-5 graders in Virginia.

2008 Meetings

- September 10
- November 4
- December 2

2009 Meetings

- February 18

Minutes of meetings are posted on the Outreach Secure Commonwealth Panel webpage at: http://www.ocp.virginia.gov/Governance/SCP_outreachsubpanel.cfm

Wednesday February 18, 2009 Meeting Notes:

- The meeting included elementary school principals from Chesterfield County, Norfolk City, Henrico County, and Harrisonburg City schools. The principals provided great insight on opportunities and possible issues regarding expanding preparedness education/training to K-6 children.
- The Working Group will receive an update on the 2008 School Safety Survey when it becomes available in June 2009.
- The working group will develop preparedness questions for the 2009 School Safety Survey. (The school safety survey is administered by Department of Criminal Justice Services and is the only survey regarding safety and security that all elementary schools are required to complete by law. Donna Bowman is the program manager and serves on the working group. Valuable information will be gained by the Education Working Group's inclusion and contribution to the survey.)

Overview of Working Group's Efforts/Findings thus far:

- Bringing a diverse group of stakeholders to the table (Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Fire Programs, OCP, Department of Criminal Justice Services, local fire department, NOAA, elementary school principals).
- Agree that a lot of information already exist but needs to be coordinated among the different agencies.
- Trying to find ways to merge preparedness into existing SOLS.
- Desire to make preparedness teaching tools user friendly for teachers.
- The working group has researched preparedness education/outreach efforts of other states, organizations, and agencies to reach the K-5 target audience.
- Tie effort to the Ready Virginia Campaign.

Next Steps/Meeting:

- The next meeting of the Education Working Group is scheduled for May 14 at 1:30 at the Department of Fire Programs. The working group will finalize its recommendations and begin to develop a final report. The working group hopes to provide a presentation to the Panel after the report is complete in June.